

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EPAE-00 OES-07 AID-05 CEQ-01
CIAE-00 SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 INR-10 IO-14
L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 ICA-20 SS-15
SP-02 DOE-15 INT-05 AGRE-00 PA-02 EUR-12 FDRE-00
/148 W

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FM AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1497

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS HERMOSILLO 105

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, MX

SUBJ: POLLUTION OF SAN PEDRO RIVER

REF: HERMOSILLO 101

1. APRIL 4, 1978 EDITION OF ARIZONA DAILY STAR CARRIES A BRIEF REPORT ON SUBJECT PROBLEM ENTITLED "BAN ON IRRIGATION ALONG SAN PEDRO EXTENDED 5 DAYS". TEXT FOLLOWS.
2. QUOTE BISBEE - A SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HERE HAS ORDERED AN IRRIGATION DISTRICT NOT TO USE WATER FROM THE POLLUTED SAN PEDRO RIVER UNTIL AT LEAST NOON SATURDAY.

IN ISSUING THE ORDER TO THE ST. DAVID IRRIGATION DISTRICT, JUDGE LLOYD C. HELM SAID, "IT WOULD APPEAR FROM TESTIMONY THAT THE RIVER WATER HAS NOW CLEARED ENOUGH TO BE SAFE FOR LIVESTOCK AND WILD-LIFE, BUT OUT OF CAUTION, I'M CONTINUING MY INJUNCTION FOR FIVE DAYS."

HELM WAS ACTING ON AN INJUNCTION REQUEST FILED BY A ST. DAVID FARMER CHARLES BEELER.

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BEELER CONTENDED THAT THE DISTRICT WAS PROVIDING FARMERS AND RANCHERS IN THE ST. DAVID AREA WITH POLLUTED WATER THAT COULD BE HARMFUL TO LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE.

HE ASKED THE COURT TO CONTINUE THE RESTRAINING ORDER UNTIL THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DECLARES THE WATER SAFE FOR AGRI-

CULTURAL, LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE USE.

WATER IN THE NORTH-FLOWING RIVER BECAME CONTAMINATED EARLY
LAST MONTH AFTER A COPPER MINE NEAR CANANEA, SON., STARTED
DUMPING WASTE MATERIALS FROM A LEACHING FIELD INTO THE RIVER.

GUY SMITH, ST. DAVID IRRIGATION DISTRICT PRESIDENT, SAID HE
VOLUNTARILY ORDERED THE WATER SHUT OFF AT THE HEIGHT OF THE
POLLUTION IN MID-MARCH BUT BELIEVES THE RIVER WATER IS SAFE
NOW.

BEELEER SAID HE PUMPED THE WATER FROM THE DISTRICT'S CANALS
INTO HIS FISH PONDS, AND THAT ALL THE FISH DIED. HE SAID
CANADIAN GEESE AND WILD DUCKS ALSO HAD LEFT HIS PONDS AND
HAVE NOT RETURNED. END QUOTE.
SACKSTEDER

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